



# LEEC

LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL  
EDUCATION COMMISSION

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*A Weekly Compilation of Environmental Education News from Across Louisiana*

## LEEC NEWS

### ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS ART CONTEST

Your student could win \$200 and be invited to a reception at the Governor's Mansion this summer! Louisiana students ages 5-18 are invited to submit visual or written work centered around the theme. Entries will be judged; winners will receive a cash prize and be featured in our 2015 calendar.

Send entries to :

Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries  
Environmental Education Section  
P.O. Box 98000  
Baton Rouge, LA 70898-9000

Deadline to enter is April 25. View the contest website [here](#).

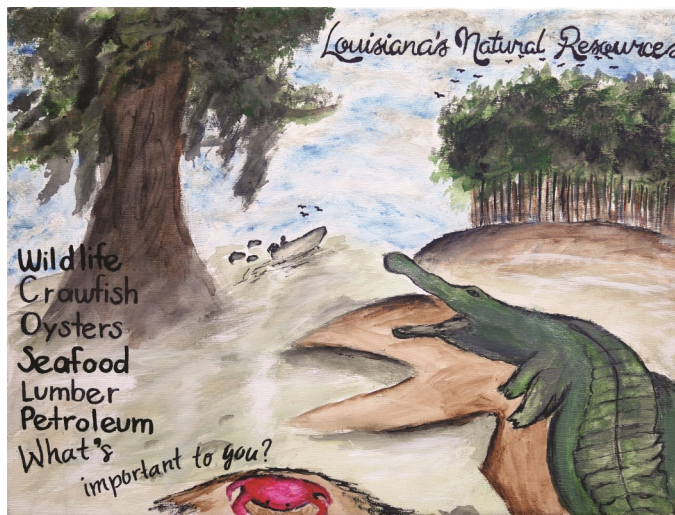


Image by Tuyen Dang, Jefferson Parish

### LDWF TO HOST "BEAR WITH US" BLACK BEAR WORKSHOP AT PALMETTO STATE PARK JUNE 17-18

Come join the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) for a teacher workshop focused on our state mammal – the Louisiana black bear! Geared toward teachers of middle and high school students and informal educators, this workshop will cover topics ranging from the bears of the world to current research happening right here with our own Louisiana bears. The workshop promises to be complete with presentations, demonstration of classroom lesson activities, and field work related to black bear habitat identification using GPS and telemetry units.



## BEAR WITH US

A reservation fee of \$25 is required, and will be returned upon completion of the workshop. Download the workshop flyer [here](#), and the registration form [here](#).

For more information, visit the Professional Development section of the LEEC website or contact: Carrie Salyers, [csalyers@wlf.la.gov](mailto:csalyers@wlf.la.gov)

## LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

### CWPPRA TASK FORCE HOSTS DEDICATION CEREMONY

The Coastal Wetlands Planning Protection and Restoration Act (CWPPRA) Task Force invites the public to a dedication ceremony April 30, 2014, at ConocoPhillips in Houma, Louisiana. The ceremony will celebrate the CWPPRA's continued commitment to coastal restoration. The event will begin at 10 am and conclude with a lunch provided by local sponsors. During the event, the public is invited to meet wetland engineers, scientists, and policy holders who have worked together to complete 101 Louisiana projects over the last 23 years.

CWPPRA recently marked the completion of its 100th project, the West Belle Pass Barrier Headland Restoration Project, constructed by Louisiana and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The dedication ceremony will be hosted at ConocoPhillips, 806 Bayou Black Drive, Houma, LA 70360. Join in the celebrations as the community celebrates the progress on CWPPRA projects in southeastern Louisiana.

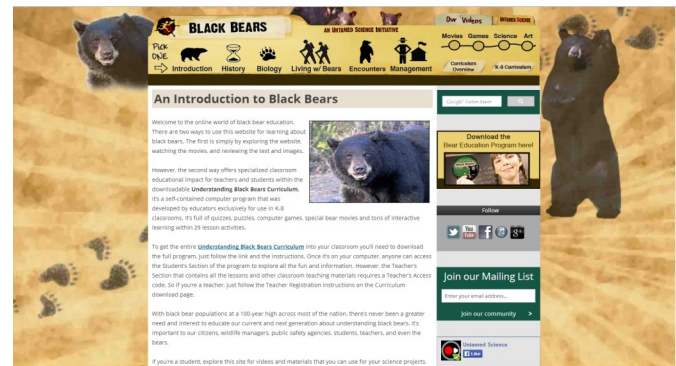
**Please RSVP by April 21, 2014** to [jcoen@usgs.gov](mailto:jcoen@usgs.gov) or by phone at (337) 266-8626. Lunch will be provided to all those who RSVP for the FREE event.

## RESOURCES

### LDWF ANNOUNCES BLACK BEAR INFORMATION WEBSITE

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is pleased to announce that a new, award-winning online black bear education website is now available to teachers, students and the general public.

This new bear education portal -- <http://blackbearinfo.com/> -- offers a vibrant assortment of bear education movies, images and text that cover almost every aspect of understanding and living with black bears. Many of the online video clips come from the award-winning film, *Living with Black Bears*. This film earned international attention winning a Silver Telly Award for a wildlife production while also earning Honorable Mention at the prestigious International Wildlife Film Festival.



This new website reflects six years of work by a coalition of bear states partnered with bear education non-profits and wildlife educators to develop a two-tier bear education program that educates the general population on Living with Black Bears, while also formally educating our next generation of students about Understanding Black Bears.

Now students and teachers can access an entire year's worth of exciting black bear education for learning at home and in classrooms. Though anyone can download the free program and access the Student's Section, Louisiana state teachers will need to register to receive their exclusive access code. The teacher's section of the program contains 29 lesson activities and related classroom support materials. The free access code can be obtained by all Louisiana educators at <http://blackbearinfo.com/teachers/>.

Two decades ago, the Louisiana Black Bear was on the brink of extinction, but today it is on the rebound. When the Louisiana Black Bear was listed as threatened in 1992 under the Endangered Species Act, there were estimated to be fewer than 300 of them left in the world. Today, innovative programs to reestablish these animals and restore their habitat through improved land management, high-tech monitoring, and public education are enabling the recovery.

For more information on the Louisiana black bear visit [www.wlf.louisiana.gov](http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov). For more information on the Understanding Black Bears website portal, contact Carrie Salyers at [csalyers@wlf.gov](mailto:csalyers@wlf.gov) or 337-262-2080.



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### **ATTEND WETSHOP 2014 AT LDWF MARINE RESEARCH LAB IN GRAND ISLE**

WETSHOP is a week-long, dynamic teacher work-shop that allows teachers to work with educator/ scientists to learn about Louisiana coastal wetlands, issues and history. The focus of the summer work-shop is to create wetland stewards of teachers in order for them to educate co-workers and students in their home parishes about coastal land loss. Fifty -five professional contact hours will be accrued up-on the completion of this wet-land institute.

WETSHOP, to be held **July 6-11, 2014**, is available to 20 educators. Enrollment fee is just \$50.

Event highlights include:

- Fisheries management; research trawling, seining
- Barrier islands and their role in coastal health
- Coastal Botany & Ornithology (visit Brown Pelican rookery)
- Water Quality Testing along fresh to salt water gradient
- Visit transitional Coastal Ecosystems
- Tour one of the largest oil ports in U.S.
- Visit coastal restoration site / Oil Spill impact sites
- Invasive Species (role in coastal land loss)



Contact Angela Capello, (318) 748-6914, [acapello@wlf.la.gov](mailto:acapello@wlf.la.gov) and download the flyer [here](#).

### **FREE WEBINAR ON WATER QUALITY MOBILE WEBSITE "HOW'S MY WATERWAY?"**

EPA will be hosting a free webinar on April 23 from 1:00pm- 2:00pm Eastern Time to detail the new enhancements to How's My Waterway, a mobile friendly website that enables users to easily access water quality information for their local lakes, rivers, and streams.

Visit "How's My Waterway?" at <http://watersgeo.epa.gov/mywaterway/> or register for the webinar at <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/427306106>.

## **HOW ARE YOU CELEBRATING NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION WEEK?**

**FIND IDEAS AT THE EE WEEK WEBSITE, [www.eeweek.org](http://www.eeweek.org)**

## GET INVOLVED!

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR TREE PLANTING EVENT NEAR GOLDEN MEADOW**

The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana, Ducks Unlimited, and Lafourche Parish Government are joining forces to restore the coast but they can't do it alone! You're invited to join with them for a two-day marsh grass planting event Friday and Saturday, April 25 and 26.

Sign up to volunteer at the CRCA events calendar, [here](#).

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[LouisianaEnvironmentalEducationCommission](http://LouisianaEnvironmentalEducationCommission)